

IMPORTERS EAGER TO BRIBE

EX-HIGHLY HYLAND SAYS THEY WERE GLAD TO PAY.

He Asserts That Women Relatives of Importers Were Used to Force Money on the Customs Officials for Their False Weighing. Bringing Out on for Years.

The graft disclosures in the customs trial in the United States Circuit Court took a new turn yesterday when James P. Hyland, a government witness who was an assistant customs weigher from October, 1891, to September, 1909, told how the wives, cousins, aunts of importers and sometimes the importers themselves invaded the docks and followed the weighers about soliciting them to accept money for underweighing their importations.

This information was volunteered by Hyland under cross-examination by Henry F. Cochrane, of counsel for the defense of George E. Bedford, Charles D. Drew and C. H. Wardell, on trial for fraud. Women were seen frequently on the docks, Hyland said, and they were the most insistent in corrupting the weighers.

In giving the importations of the matter, Hyland said that he went about soliciting the importers for money and forcing them to pay on the threatened alternative of having their cargoes weighed to the full limit of honest weight. During the decade prior to 1905, when Collector Stranahan ordered an investigation, conditions on the docks were so bad that a threat of this sort usually brought the importer to terms.

Hyland insisted that there was no need of using such threats, as the importers were as keen in the giving of bribes as the weighers were in taking them. He admitted, however, that he frequently went to the offices of the importers to arrange for the underweighing and the basis on which the weighers were to get their remuneration. When he would appear at the office of an importer he was asked who he was and then the figures of the consular invoices which had been falsely sworn to as correct in their weights of the particular importation were brought out and he was asked how much he would "weigh off." If he said he would take off a hundred pounds the importer usually wanted him to take off 150 pounds.

"Why," exclaimed Hyland, "the importer thought that a weigher could take off all the weight he wanted."

Hyland was asked about his relations with the firm of A. Musco & Son, an American firm, and his son Philip, who was in the United States Circuit Court last fall on the charge of defrauding the Government out of duties on fig and cheese imports. He said that he had a large commission from the firm, and that he was a partner in it.

Hyland said that Philip Musco called him up on the telephone to meet him in a car. He went to the car and found a young man who he said was a partner in the firm. He said that he had a large commission from the firm, and that he was a partner in it.

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EXPULSED AFTER 38 YEARS

Strange Story of Aged French Canadian Who Served in U. S. Army.

OTTAWA, Sept. 13. Having walked from Montreal to Ottawa to lay his case before Premier Laurier, Andre Lavigne, an old and feeble man, appeared in the police court today. His story is a strange one. He claimed to be a French Canadian who served in the U. S. Army for 38 years.

Lavigne says that after having lived for thirty-eight years in the United States and serving in the army he has now been sent back to his Canadian birthplace so that the United States will not run the risk of having him become a public charge. When he was born in St. Pierre, Quebec, he was 22 years of age. He enlisted in the U. S. Army, and served three years in New Mexico.

When he returned he bought a hotel at Bradford, Mass., which he sold later, buying a farm at Pelham, Mass. Misfortunes came and the immigration authorities in Massachusetts sent him back to St. Pierre. All his friends had passed away there, so he was sent by that town to St. Hyacinthe. From there he was sent to Montreal.

Being unable to find a place to stay there he left on foot for Ottawa.

CLOAK STRIKE REALLY OFF

Now 13,000 Philadelphia Workers May Repeat the New York Campaign.

The last of the cloakmakers' strike was heard yesterday. The cloak, skirt and shirt manufacturers' Protective Association was notified by the executive committee of the union that the strike had been formally declared off. All the strikers have returned to work and the city is abuzz with the news.

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FRANCHISE KILLER NEEDED

FEARLESS ATTORNEY-GENERAL MIGHT FILL THE BILL.

Public Service Commission Needs Cooperation in Expelling Unscrupulous of the City Streets, Says Delos F. Wilcox to the City Club Conference.

In answer to a call for a meeting sent out by Raymond V. Ingersoll, Hamilton Holt, George W. Alger, Homer Folks and the Rev. J. Howard Melish, twenty-eight persons including the reporters met at the City Club yesterday afternoon to discuss means of getting both political parties to nominate "able, fearless men" for State Attorney-General. The idea that an able, fearless Attorney-General might help New York city and the Public Service Commission to clear up the franchise situation in Greater New York.

A speech was made by Delos F. Wilcox, who is chief of the bureau of franchises of the Public Service Commission. After telling how bad the franchise situation was Mr. Wilcox got down to special instances.

"The franchises of the Union Railway Company are all subject to attack, I have concluded," said Mr. Wilcox. "The railway and other franchises in Queens are largely forfeitable." He thought the Consolidated Gas Company's franchises generally weak and said that a few existing franchises actually had been declared void. The twenty miles of unused horse car tracks he called a notorious legacy of perpetual franchises.

Mr. Wilcox explained that the Public Service Commission was very anxious to straighten out the franchises but couldn't do it without the cooperation of the city government and the State Attorney-General and even then a law would probably have to be passed by the Legislature repealing all existing franchises not used.

R. V. Ingersoll, who presided, asked Harry P. Nichols, franchise expert, to say what he thought of the situation. Mr. Nichols said that the situation was very bad and that the city government and the State Attorney-General should take action.

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KIND WORD FOR MOONSHINER

Ex-Judge Perkins of Kentucky Defends the Mountain Still.

Former Judge George G. Perkins of Covington, Ky., who was on the bench twenty-eight years and who is a friend of Marnie Henry Watterson as well as a great admirer of President Taft, having tried cases in the same town with him for years when the President was a Federal Judge, is at the Waldorf.

He retired from the judiciary about seven years ago and resumed the practice of law, though nowadays he does not appear in the courts. He has a home at Chevy Chase, near Washington, where he puts in much of his time playing golf, but his office is in Covington.

Perkins will never go for Statewide prohibition in spite of the agitation for it, said Judge Perkins yesterday. "You cannot prohibit the use of liquor so long as it is manufactured, and the only way regulation of the traffic is by licensing it so as to make it yield a big revenue."

"Oh, yes, moonshiners still moonshine in the Kentucky mountains, but the prosecutions of them to my mind are largely unnecessary. There is no need of an indictment to prosecutions in the shape of fees for clerks and marshals. The whiskey made in the mountains is for local use and distilled by people who do not sell it. Not a gallon would ever come into competition with the tax-paying whiskey."

"What I have seen justifies me in the belief that the prosecution of only the large and more important makers of mountain whiskey would serve all the ends of the Government and save a lot of hardship."

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"I saw the laws of Kentucky almost totally changed while I was on the bench," said Judge Perkins. "When I took my seat negroes could not testify in court, nor could litigants nor defendants in criminal cases. Women had no rights, and they have since then. I am for women's rights, but not for suffrage."

SLAPS PRO AND CON

In Church War, Rev. Mr. Ackley, Deposed Rector, Meets Bishop Burgess.

The war at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Fifth street and Fourth avenue, Bay Ridge, continued yesterday, but was no longer insubstantial. In the afternoon a choir girl who remains a friend of the rector fired and two ladies, church women both, who side with the vestry met at Fourth avenue and Forty-seventh street.

The choir singer was lucky to escape with bruises and one cheek redder than the other from a stone thrown by the rector. The other from a stone thrown by the rector.

Topical for discussion for the day were the meeting of the rector and Bishop Burgess. The Bishop of the diocese came in in the morning from Garden city and met the Rev. Mr. Ackley at the diocesan house, 10 Remsen street.

With Mr. Ackley was his lawyer, William H. Ford, the only one of the trio who would talk. He repeated in different English the statement made by the Bishop yesterday that according to church law the ousting of Mr. Ackley was not regular.

Darwin J. Meserole is counsel for the vestrymen who denounced the Rev. Mr. Ackley. He reiterated his charges that he had been formally laid before the Bishop, who refused to take them up.

It was stated yesterday that the vestry have named three ministers out of the congregation for consideration, and that next Sunday one of the three will fill the pulpit of St. Andrew's. For Mr. Ackley it was said that he may go as far as get out an injunction to prevent the vestry from allowing the new minister to occupy the pulpit which he thinks is his though he can't get into it. Mr. Ackley will again make his appeal to the church law.

SUPPORT OF HILDA MORRIS.

Referee Reports That Heirs to \$2,000,000 Should Not Be Forced to Work.

William Klein, who was appointed referee to decide whether Hilda Charlotte Edgerton Morris, one of the three children of Mrs. Julia Watts Morris Curtis, who will inherit an estate worth more than \$2,000,000 on the death of her mother, must go to work to support herself or be provided for by the conservators of her mother's estate, decided yesterday that her physical condition is such that she can do no work, and suggested that the Court fix a proper amount for the support of Miss Morris, who is now 19 years old.

The proceedings in which Mr. Klein was appointed referee were instituted by a school for girls which has been unable to collect a bill for Miss Morris's tuition for last year.

Counsel for Elmore S. Banks, conservator of Mrs. Curtis's estate, had suggested that Miss Morris go to live with her mother, but she refused to do so. It would be imprudent to require her to live with her mother, because the charges and countercharges made against Mrs. Curtis, if true, show that the surroundings are as unwholesome as the food and the betterment of the condition of the said infant.

Mr. Klein recommended that Miss Morris be maintained in the style of life to which she had been accustomed. The referee reported that Peter Henry Morris, father of the girl, from whom Mrs. Curtis got a divorce, is not able to support her, and that her brother, Louis H. Morris, is also unable to do so.

When the revocation of his permit came, he said, he visited Commissioner Stover, who advised him to see "a man named Katz at 132 Nassau."

A brother of Antonopoulos swore that he had been present when Antonopoulos was after Alfred Katz and his brothers Jacob and Harry, who are associated in the real estate business, swore that they did not know the Greek and that none of them had any one for the right to run the fruit stand in the City Hall Park.

On the stand the fruit vender said that he had been for two years license from the Metropolitan administration, paying a rental of \$8,000. Park Commissioner Stover, he said, had verbally agreed to allow him to retain his space under the bridge stairs at a monthly rental of \$700 and to have four feet of space because of this extra four feet, Antonopoulos explained, he had invested several thousand dollars in betterments.

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